



**SUWANNEE
RIVER
WATER
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT**

9225 CR 49
Live Oak, FL 32060
TELEPHONE: 386-362-1001
TELEPHONE: 800-226-1066
FAX: 386-362-1056

ORDER NO. 2008-0003

ORDER DECLARING WATER SHORTAGE ADVISORY

The Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District (District), during a public hearing held on May 8, 2008, at the Steinhatchee Community Center in Steinhatchee, Florida, received testimony, including data and recommendations from District staff regarding hydrologic conditions and the declaration of a water shortage advisory within the District. Based on the testimony, data, and staff recommendations, the Governing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At its March 11, 2008, meeting, the District's Governing Board authorized declaration of a Phase II Water Shortage, pursuant to the provisions of 40B-21, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), to remain in effect until the Governing Board deems no longer necessary.
2. Hydrologic conditions are summarized as follows:
 - a. Rainfall
 - i. As of March 31, 2008, for the fifteen counties within the District, there is an average rainfall deficit of approximately 9.6 inches, measured as a twelve-month moving sum.
 - b. Groundwater conditions
 - i. As of March 31, 2008, groundwater levels monitored at 84 wells throughout the District were as follows: 34.5% were within the normal or above-normal range for March, 34.5% were in the low range, and 31% were in the extremely low range.
 - ii. As of March 31, 2008, emergency permits for dry wells were 6.6 percent of the total number of water well permits issued since April 1, 2007.
 - c. Surfacewater conditions
 - i. As of April 8, 2008, seven-day average streamflow conditions were below normal in the Coastal Rivers Basin and the Waccasassa River Basin, and normal for the Suwannee River Basin.

- d. Drought indices
 - i. As of April 1, 2008, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that all or part of Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, and Alachua Counties are abnormally dry.
 - ii. As of April 5, 2008, the Long-Term Palmer Drought Severity Index indicates that all or part of fifteen counties within the District are normal.
 - iii. As of March 31, 2008, the 18-month Standardized Precipitation Index indicates that all or part of fifteen counties within the District are moderately dry.
- e. Weather forecasts
 - i. As of April 3, 2008, the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook does not identify a trend toward drought intensification for the District through June 2008.
 - ii. The Climate Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicates equal chances for below-normal, above-normal, and normal precipitation in the District through June 2008.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

3. The Governing Board of the District is duly authorized by Section 373.246(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 40B-21, F.A.C., to issue orders declaring the existence of a water shortage within all or part of the District and to encourage conservation and elimination of wasteful or inefficient water use.
4. The Governing Board held a public hearing on May 8, 2008, for the purpose of considering data, including quantitative and qualitative indicators and staff recommendations.
5. Upon careful consideration of the Drought Indicators, Drought Condition Levels, District data, qualitative factors and staff recommendations, the Executive Director has determined that a District-wide Phase II Water Shortage is no longer necessary and should be so rescinded.
6. As a result of such careful consideration of the factors in paragraph five above, the Executive Director has determined that a District-wide Water Shortage Advisory, Phase I is necessary.

ORDERED

THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED:

7. The Phase II Water Shortage Order as declared on March 11, 2008, is hereby rescinded.

